

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the July 27, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of July 27, 2021 at 6:59 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Town Assessor, Jim Michaud

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Marilyn McGrath, David Morin, Kara Roy
Absent: Brett Gagnon

Staff/Others: Bill Avery - Police Chief; Tad Dionne - Police Captain; Jana McMillan - Animal Control Officer; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia - School Board Chairman;
Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant
Absent: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Ave, came forward and said, good evening. Without the Hudson Litchfield News or anything and I don't get to watch so much Selectmen meetings. I'm curious on when the Water and Sewer Utilities are going to be open up to come down and pay the bills. I know Covid's been putting us on a lot of back but I mean the Town's been open for paying your car and stuff and I know they put the new window in for the Sewer but I haven't head when I'm able to come in. we have to drop it or mail it. Chairman McGrath said I think that you can come in. Selectman Roy said I thought it was open too. Chief Buxton do you? Chief Buxton said you should be able to drop upstairs, pay at the Town Clerk's office or come downstairs. Mr. Bernard said, I was told we couldn't come downstairs. When asked when that was, he said when he paid his last bill. The Board assured him he can come into pay his water bill now.

5. Recognitions and Resignations

Recognition

Chairman McGrath this evening Hudson resident, 18 year old Tyler Blanchette, was going to join us to receive a Civilian Service Award from the Hudson Police Department. Over the years Tyler has raised over \$30,000, in our community, for the Alzheimer's Association. Tyler is ill and is unable to leave his home to join us here tonight. The Hudson Police and Hudson Fire Departments made a visit to Tyler's home yesterday to present Tyler with a Civilian Service Award.

The Board of Selectmen thank Tyler for being such an admirable member of our community and we keep Tyler and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Resignations

Municipal Utility Committee - Resignation of Chelsea Prindiville and Brian Prindiville

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to accept the resignation of Chelsea Prindiville from the Municipal Utility Committee with the Boards thanks and appreciation. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the resignation of Brian Prindiville from the Municipal Utility Committee with the Boards thanks and appreciation. Carried 3-0.

Ethics Committee - Resignation of Connor Regan

Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the resignation of Connor Regan from the Ethics Committee with the Boards thanks and appreciation. Carried 3-0.

Chairman McGrath asked if any member of the Board wish to remove any consent item for separate consideration. Selectman Roy asked that Item E, Minutes of July 13, 2021 be corrected and added to the next meeting packet for approval. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve items Consent Items A, C, D, and F. Carried 3-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

1) All Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Timber Warrant: Map 115, Lot 5, 99R Old Derry Road; Map 123, Lot 1, 39R Old Derry Road

2) Current Use Lien Release: Map 194, Lot 9-9, 164 Standish Lane; Map 194, Lot 9-8, 160 Standish Lane; Map 195, Lot 1-1, 159 Standish Lane; Map 194, Lot 9-6, 152 Standish Lane; Map 194, Lot 10-8, 151 Standish Lane; Map 194, Lot 10-7, 149 Standish Lane; Map 194, Lot 10-5, 137 Standish Lane; Map 194

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Raffle Permit - Hudson Republican Committee

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the July 13, 2021

F. Calendar

7/28 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
8/4 8:30 Highway Safety Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
8/4 7:00 Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
8/9 7:00 Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
8/9 7:00 Cable Utility Committee - HCTV Cable Access Center
8/10 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on June 13, 2021

1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Raymond Lafortune for the position of full-time Police Officer with a starting salary of \$26.37 (Step1) per hour, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 4-0.

2) Motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. by Selectman Gagnon, seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

B. Proposed Amendment to Town Code Chapter 205 (Fees) Zoning Application Fee

Chairman McGrath stated that we held a public hearing on this matter at the July 13th meeting and there was no input from the public. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to amend Town Code Chapter 205-13, A (1) Zoning Fees, by increasing the fees from \$130 to \$180. Carried 3-0.

C. Proposed Amendment Town Code - Chapter 317-30 Stop Intersections
(Madison Drive at Washington Street)

Chairman McGrath stated a public hearing was held at the July 13th meeting. With no public input on this matter. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to amend Town Code Chapter 317-30 Schedule III: Stop Intersections by adding a stop sign on Madison Drive at Washington Street, approaching north. Carried 3-0.

D. Proposed Amendment Town Code - Chapter 317-30 Stop Intersections
(Adelaide Street at Travers)

Chairman McGrath stated a public hearing was held at the July 13th meeting. With no public input on this matter. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to amend Town Code Chapter 317-30 Schedule III: Stop Intersections by adding a stop sign on Adelaide Street at Travers Street, northbound, and Travers Street at Adelaide Street, westbound. Carried 3-0.

E. Proposed Amendment to Board of Selectmen Bylaws

This item was discussed and a motion made at the July 13th Board meeting and a vote is required tonight. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to amend Chapter D, Rules or Order, #2, Agenda, of the Board of Selectmen bylaws by adding the following language "Members that want to add an item to the agenda must do so in writing; providing a synopsis of the issue and including supporting documents, if any. All agenda items, including all backup documentation, must be received by the Executive Assistant no later than noon on the Thursday before the meeting. Carried 2-1, McGrath opposed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2022 Revaluation - Mass Appraisal Valuation Contract

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Assessor, Jim Michaud. Mr. Michaud started off by saying Board Members and members watching at home, the Board has two memos in front of it. A very nice, short, concise memo from Lisa Labrie, the Finance Director, recommending the appraisal reevaluation contract. And mine goes on a little bit longer just because I feel I would like to go through the reasons why I'm recommending that Vision Appraisal VGSI Inc. should be the company that we hire to do the reevaluation for next year in 2022. They're the same company that we approved to do a mass appraisal software conversion from Patriot Properties, our software of 20 plus years to Vision Appraisal. It'll be the fifth re-evaluation I think I've been here for. If not, the six and Vision Appraisal has done a number of communities all around us for decades, including last year, this year and next year. Nashua, Salem, Manchester, Keene, very knowledgeable with the southern New Hampshire market. They're obviously very knowledgeable with their own software. They have a great team in place. They have a great bench of people to call on and that's important these days. If someone goes down and you have folks that can stand up and do the job. I had a conversation today with their appraisal, vice president, who I've known for many years and I'm confident that they would be part of a good team to have a good re-evaluation for Hudson next year. We've already prior contracted with George Sansoucy for the public utility valuation. So this company would pick up the residential and commercial and industrial end. We have a lot of data. We have a lot of information. We're looking forward to it. I wouldn't mind having some calming in the market myself, but will we use the numbers that are there. It's a really competitive contract proposal that thirteen dollars a parcel. The money is in the capital reserve fund for future re-evaluation. And it doesn't clean out that fund either, which I think is important. You know, we've been doing reassessments once every five years. You can do reassessments more than once every five years. So if we do the reassessments and the day after we send out the notices next summer, you know, the market tanks, we want to be in a position that we could respond to that maybe in a less than five year time frame. So I think it's important that we have a good \$60,000 or so left in the left in the bank, if we had to do something, say, in 2024. So that's all I have unless the Board members have any questions I'm here.

Chairman McGrath asked, any questions from anyone? Is anyone prepared to make, there's two motions that need to be made. The first is to waive the competitive bid process as outlined in Hudson Town Code for the purpose of awarding the 2022 full statistical revaluation contract to VGSI. Selectman Morin made that motion, seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to authorize to expend \$149,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Future Property Reevaluation to fund the contract, as recommended by Jim Michaud, Chief Assessor, and Lisa Labrie, Finance Director. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Michaud then said, if anybody likes rhubarb, I brought rhubarb in this morning. It's over in the kitchen. Sometime you can't give it away.

B. Second Public Hearing - Town Code Chapter 188 (Dogs and Other Animals) and Chapter 205

Chairman McGrath explained that this was the second public hearing for this agenda item. The Chairman opened the public hearing at 7:14p.m. Seeing no one present to offer public input on the matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing at 7:14p.m. Selectman Roy was recognized and said that the Board had received an email of public input from a resident whose husband gave public input

at the first public hearing. The Chairman thanked Lorrie Fernald for her email and stated that this would be taken into account.

C. HFD - Request to Apply for Grant

Chief Buxton was recognized and said, good evening, Madam Chairman, members of the Board. First item on the agenda this evening is requesting permission to apply for a local community grant sponsored by Wal-Mart. This is a program they do yearly. The grant request would go in and we would be awarded between \$250 and \$5,000, depending on what their value setting measures are. This year we would use this to put into our safety programs for traffic vests or something along those lines or additional masking requirements. So we were asking the Board's permission to apply for the grant. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the local community grant sponsored by Wal-Mart. Carried 3-0.

D. HPD - Acceptance of Donation from Southern NH Health

Chief Buxton said, this evening, we're happy to come forward and request that you accept the cash donation from the Mary and John Elliott Charitable Foundation, who would like to provide us \$4,920 to purchase three IV pumps. The Foundation is a non-profit organization that was created with the financial support of Elliot Health Care to support various health care needs throughout the state. And it comes to us through Southern New Hampshire Health Services and we are looking to purchase three or spectrum infusion pumps. This will bring us in line with the technology in the field today and we will have to continue to buy specialized tubing for the IV pumps. So that's a big upgrade. If I can just one second. I would like to thank far for the paramedic, Zachary Whitney, who was a paramedic student up to the Elliott and became aware of this program several years ago and has been pursuing this opportunity and brought this to closure. So we thank him for his efforts. So cash donation of \$4,920. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept a donation of \$4,920 from the Mary and John Elliott Charitable Foundation through Southern New Hampshire Health Services. Carried 3-0.

E. HFD - RSA 128 Town Health Officers

Chief Buxton explained so over the last year, the state did have a legislative season. We're starting to see those House bills and Senate bills be signed into law by the Governor, one of which was House Bill 79, which is relative to town health officer and health officer requirements for the Board of Health here in Hudson. The governor signed that bill into law and that makes adjustments to RSA 128 that I need to bring to your attention this evening. I provided you a brief PowerPoint that the state had given us. The one highlight that I would like to let you know is that the rules for these updates have not been fully written yet. So all the training has not been created, which the state is going to provide for us. So we're still in a pending process to what that means. A couple of a couple of administrative pieces, all terms for health officers and deputy health officers will now be concurrent on one on application. So they'll run together. But they'll also require, each time, a criminal background check that will be run by the Department of Safety. Additionally, this Board, which is the Town of Hudson's Board of Health, will be required to administer at least a minimum of one review meeting per year to look at health readiness throughout the community and look at nuisance claims, sanitary inspection practices, housing communicable diseases and health and safety plans for the community from a global perspective. Additionally, we require all health, the health officer and deputy

health officers to receive three hours of training within their first year of appointment to update their skill sets on enforcement inspection practices and regulation changes. So this is more information for you than anything, but we needed to get that in front of you tonight. So you know that there's new requirements for that yearly review, which will start this November.

Chairman McGrath said I read through this and I was wondering, I was questioning whether or not we needed to have a committee appointed or not or if it's considered to be us. Chief Buxton replied saying by state law it is the Board of Selectmen and I'm your health officer. So that puts us in a group together to get that accomplished. Selectman Morin asked with the new regulations is that going to affect how we're operating now with all the health officers and the deputy Health offices? Chief Buxton replied saying, once I see them in writing, I will be better prepared to answer that question. I haven't seen that in full writing yet.

F. HFD - American Rescue Plan Act

Chief Buxton said then the last agenda item this evening is regards to the American Rescue Plan, so in early in June, we discussed the American Rescue Plan and what that meant for the community. The value of the plan and our allotment is based on the 2019 census, which for Hudson showed us had 25,514 residents. And then that brought in approximately an award of \$2.5 two million dollars. To stay in compliance with RSA 31:95-b, the Town of Hudson needs to post to hold a public hearing to basically bring those moneys in. The application is ready to go and ready to hit submit, but we need to hold a public hearing prior to that. Your next Board meeting to get that accomplished would be August 10th. This will give the seven day period for advertisement and to get that accomplished.

Chairman McGrath asked Ok, so Jill, can you make a note of that? Ms. Laffin responded that the public hearing notice will get posted on the Town website and will run in the Nashua Telegraph on August 1st. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hold a public hearing on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds at the August 10, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said if we could just talk about one other things. The committee, when did you want to start that up? Chief Buxton responded, as we get through the application process, we'll start talking about oversight committees and how that's going to be facilitated. We need to have projects highlighted and identified before 2024. So we do have a little bit of time that was meshed into the rules to get that accomplished. And once we get the money stream established, then we can move forward with the committee in the oversight stuff.

9. Remarks by the School Board

Mr. Gasdia said, I will go quickly. I do have a very short list of items. First, there's been some questions about returning to school. Just in general, the Superintendent will be sending out sort of A Midsummer Update probably on Thursday to anyone that's in the School District email system. There's been a significant amount of traction online about the mask policy with the school. I just want to reiterate that at this time, masks are optional for all of our summer programs. There is not any ability on July 27th to say what will be the situation on August 26th so we can discuss. But anything you're seeing out there that says there is a definitive plan in place that is incorrect. As we get closer and things change, we'll know more. But, you know, just from this morning to now, the guidance has changed. I would imagine it's going to change many times between now and then. But our current policy is mask optional. Our hope is that continues and that little spike we're seeing now will dissipate well before school starts. And finally, on a sad note, Lois Connors, who was the principal of Hill's

Garrison School for many years and just retired this year, passed away. Big loss. She had a huge impact on many students and many families.

10. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Roy: NRPC, Nashua Regional Planning Committee, is holding two household hazardous waste days on August 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 25 Crown Street in Nashua and on August 28 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pelham Municipal Building.

Also the Zoning Board is in the beginning stages of revamping their applications to make them more user friendly.

Selectman Morin: I will go quickly. I do have a very short list of items. First, there's been some questions about returning to school. Just in general, the Superintendent will be sending out sort of A Midsummer Update probably on Thursday to anyone that's in the School District email system. There's been a significant amount of traction online about the mask policy with the school. I just want to reiterate that at this time, masks are optional for all of our summer programs. There is not any ability on July 27th to say what will be the situation on August 26th so we can discuss. But anything you're seeing out there that says there is a definitive plan in place that is incorrect. As we get closer and things change, we'll know more. But, you know, just from this morning to now, the guidance has changed. I would imagine it's going to change many times between now and then. But our current policy is mask optional. Our hope is that continues and that little spike we're seeing now will dissipate well before school starts.

And finally, on a sad note, Lois Connors, who was the principal of Hill's Garrison School for many years and just retired this year, passed away. Big loss. She had a huge impact on many students and many families.

Chairman McGrath: So have I just have one thing, as the public quickly knows, and if they don't, they need to know. We went to court. The Board of Selectmen went to court last week, last Friday before the judge, about appointing a person to the Board of Selectmen. The judge ruled that we are to re-advertise, which seems that's what we tried to do and failed. Re-advertise the position. The applications must be in by August 13th and there's going to be a hearing at the courthouse on August 25th. She's going to take testimony from anybody from the public that wants to participate in that hearing. And then she'll and I believe she's going to interview the candidates that apply.

Selectman Roy spoke up saying to clarify the candidates are going to have 15 minutes to state their case. Chairman McGrath said she's going to be listening to it. So, you know, she's going to make a decision based on that. So in the end, we don't know when the decision is going to be made, if it's going to be made be made that day, which is the 25th, or it's going to be sometime afterwards, but hopefully, will come to a resolution at that time and we'll have a new member on this Board. If not, we'll just keep going at number four.

Selectman Roy said so if I could just add one more thing. She also said she would entertain written letters of recommendation or letters of opposition. Chairman McGrath said you can look on the Town's website, Town's Facebook page, which I've never gone on, so I don't even know. I didn't even know it existed. And so anybody can read about it, read who the applicants are so far and who who's being considered and if there's any other applicants that want to apply, you have to get your application in by the 13th. And the Town Attorney is going to upload those, I believe, to the states courts website or some method they will go before the court, so anyway, that's all I have to say about that at this moment.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Selectman Roy to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) the hiring of any person as a public employee. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 3-0.

Chairman McGrath entered Nonpublic Session at 7:28 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board’s next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman McGrath entered open session at 7:33 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire John Claydon as a part time animal control officer, with a starting salary of \$18.93 (Step 3), per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 3-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Kara Roy, Selectman

ABSENT
Brett Gagnon, Selectmen